

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gregory E. Sancioff et al.  
Serial No.: 10/760,634  
Confirmation No.: 8269  
Filed: January 20, 2004  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PLACING SUTURE  
WIRES INTO TISSUE FOR THE APPROXIMATION AND  
TENSIONING OF TISSUE

Examiner: Yabut, Diane D.  
Art Unit: 3734

**MAIL STOP Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF  
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

No fee or certification is required.

PART II: Information Cited

The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified PTO/SB/08). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

The relevance of Japanese references JP5-237123 may be gleaned from the accompanying English language abstract, the figures, and US 5690653 (previously cited), which is an English language family member patent.

PART III: Remarks

Documents cited anywhere in the Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed unless otherwise indicated. It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 (modified PTO/SB/08) be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his or her own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

Serial No.: 10/760,634  
Conf. No.: 8269

- 3 -

Art Unit: 3734

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: D0188.70165US02  
Date: December 27, 2007  
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